

2001 Annual Report



King County

Department of
Community and Human Services



King County

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Message from the Director

2001 was a difficult year — for King County, the state and the nation. We endured a major earthquake, a devastating terrorist attack, and a recession. With the economic downturn came significant funding reductions from both the state and the county and we were driven to look more critically at the range and scope of our services, making difficult and painful decisions to bring our budgets in line with economic realities.

And yet, even with the extraordinary trials and heartbreaks of the past year, the department and the human service community remained steadfast in our mission to provide critical services and supports to our most vulnerable populations. I am very proud to share with you this 2001 Annual Report highlighting the accomplishments of the Department of Community and Human Services and our many contracted providers. Through difficult days and uncertain times, we worked together to ensure that critical services continued to residents who depend on them.

On a daily basis and in a great multitude of ways, we reach out to King County's residents, delivering hours of service to individuals in need. Within the pages of this report are highlighted the many ways in which we strive to improve the quality of life across King County.

After 27 years of public service, I recently announced my

decision to retire from county government. It has been an honor to work with the King County human service community over the past 14 years. I thank you for the many rich and rewarding experiences I have gained from working with you, and extend my deepest appreciation and respect for the effort, achievement, and dedication you have shown in serving our most vulnerable communities.

I know that the challenges ahead are significant. On both the county and the state levels, serious budget deficits are impacting and endangering the programs we all hold dear. We must continue to work together to develop regional and cross system collaborations to maximize all available resources. I am confident in the strength and determination of the human service community to address and meet these challenges. I wish you the very best in the future.

Sincerely,
Barbara J. Gletne
July 2002

Community and Human Services Mission

To enhance the quality of life, protect rights, and promote the self-sufficiency of our region's diverse individuals, families, and communities.

thousands of individuals and communities. Within the pages of this report are highlighted the many ways in which we strive to improve the quality of life across King County. After 27 years of public service, I recently announced my

Department of Community and Human Services

The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), either directly or through a network of community agencies, provides a rich array of services to the residents of King County: affordable housing, legal counsel for low-income persons, mental health and substance abuse treatment, services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, child care, crisis response, veterans assistance, home repair services for seniors and low-income or disabled persons, emergency shelter and legal aid to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault, education and work training programs for at-risk youth and adult dislocated workers, community development, homeless assistance, and opportunities for community organization and involvement. In all of these arenas, our mission and goals are to provide services that improve and strengthen our communities, and meet the individual needs of each client and his/her family.

Administration and Funding

DCHS is responsible for the strategic planning, policy implementation, fiscal management, and oversight and provision of care for the majority of King County's housing and human services programs. The Department employs approximately 400 staff, which includes the Director's Office, the Community Services Division, the Developmental Disabilities Division, the Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division, and the Office of Public Defense. DCHS reports directly to the King County Executive's Office.

In 2001, DCHS managed a total budget of \$212 million. Funding for DCHS services comes from multiple sources: the federal government, the state of Washington, King County, local cities, and private foundations as shown below.

2001 Department of Community and Human Services

| | CX* | Other County Funding** | State | Federal | Other*** | Total |
|-------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|-------|---------|----------|-------|
| Mental Health Division | | | | | | |
| Mental Health Fund | \$ 0.4 | 3.4 | 49.1 | 32.7 | 0.5 | 86.1 |
| Substance Abuse Fund | 1.5 | 0.4 | 9.4 | 6.7 | 1.6 | 19.7 |
| Developmental Disabilities Division | 0.5 | 2.9 | 13.1 | 1.5 | 0.1 | 17.9 |
| Community Services Division | | | | | | |
| Community Services | 10.7 | 5.8 | 1.6 | 13.6 | 0.4 | 32.1 |
| Housing Services | 3.0 | 3.4 | 1.2 | 14.3 | 0.0 | 22.0 |
| Office of Public Defense | 25.2 | 0.7 | 0.7 | | 8.5 | 35.0 |
| Total | \$ 41.3 | 16.7 | 75.0 | 68.8 | 11.1 | 212.7 |
| | 19% | 8% | 35% | 32% | 5% | 100% |

*King County General Fund

**Other sources of funding direct to King County such as property tax millage, contributions from other funds, and interest

***External funding other than State or Federal such as cities and private foundations

Community Services

What We Do: The Community Services Division offers the widest range and variety of programs that not only enhance the quality of life for vulnerable children and adults but also improve the livability of our neighborhoods.

Housing and Community Development - King County works closely with local developers and financial institutions to create safe and affordable housing for low-income individuals and families. The Housing Finance Program provides capital funds for affordable housing acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, and site improvements. The Credit Enhancement Program lends the financial backing of the county to affordable housing project financing, thereby lowering project costs and offering inducements to developers to include more affordable housing. The Housing Repair Program assists seniors and low-income families with desperately needed home repairs and disability accommodations. A variety of services and supports are provided to reduce homelessness, and federal Community Development Block Grant funds are administered to fund community facilities and public improvements that benefit low and moderate income residents.

Veterans Assistance - The Veterans' Program



Sharon Smith and her daughter try out their new wheelchair ramp, a valuable service of the Housing Repair Program.



Opportunity Skyway youth check the plans for their student-built airplane.

provides assistance to low-income veterans and their families including mental health and trauma counseling, employment and financial assistance, and short and long-term housing.

Work Training and Education for Youth and Adults - The Work Training Program provides education and training to help youth and adults prepare for successful careers and futures. Working with schools and public, private and non-profit employers and agencies, the Work Training Program provides educational and vocational assistance for at-risk and drop-out youth. The Dislocated Worker Program, a comprehensive re-employment program for adults who have lost their jobs through plant closures or downsizing, offers assistance to help displaced workers find new employment.

Aging Services - The Aging Program promotes the continued independence of older adults by contracting with local agencies to offer a range of services for low-income King County residents aged 55 years or older. Services provided



"Communities in Action" host Val Thomas-Matson interviews special guest, Dr. Jocelyn Elders.

at local community and senior centers include adult day health programs, health promotion, CHORE services, and nutrition programs.

Child Care - The Child Care Program works with child care providers, homeless assistance programs, city, county and state governments to improve access to quality and culturally relevant child care for low-income families.

Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Victim Assistance - The Women's Program works with community agencies to provide crisis intervention, counseling, legal advocacy, emergency shelter, and transitional housing for women and children affected by domestic violence or sexual assault. The Domestic Violence Council, a policy level group co-convened by the King County Executive, King County Prosecutor, and King County Sheriff, offers key leadership.

Community Mobilization - The Community Organizing Program works with local neighborhoods to mobilize substance abuse and violence prevention programs. They joined with community and government partners to co-convene a countywide methamphetamine initiative.

Youth and Family Service Program - The Youth and Family Services Program provides a variety of programs to support at-risk youth, and also supports seven youth shelters throughout King County.

Juvenile Justice Coordination - Responsible for administering seven community-based programs for youth at-risk or already involved in the juvenile justice system. Services include intensive case management, court advocacy, education, employment and training, life skills, and referral to mental health and substance treatment services. Contracts are focused on preventing initial or further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

2001 Accomplishments

- ▶ Funded 739 new units of housing affordable to low-income and special needs populations.
- ▶ Broke ground for Greenbrier Heights, sited in Woodinville, which will create 50 new low-income seniors rental units, 50 units of affordable rental housing for low-income families, 11 moderate-income ownership cottages, and 59 moderate to median-income ownership units. The project will include a park and a community center and preserves 11 acres of wetlands.



Village at Overlake Station, in Redmond.



Kathryn House, in Kent.

► Opened the Village at Overlake Station in Redmond, an innovative housing development that provides mixed income housing above a Metro park-and-ride structure. The project received a national award for meeting the region's affordable housing and growth management goals.

► Opened Heron Landing Senior Housing in Kenmore to provide 50 new units of housing located near the Shoreline Senior Center.

► Opened Kathryn House in Kent, a transitional housing project for homeless women being released from the Regional Justice Center. The program helps residents to become self-sufficient, break the cycle of re-offending, and reunite with their children and families.

► Secured the fifth largest McKinney Homeless grant in the country, a \$9.3 million joint award with the City of Seattle to support programs in Seattle/King County including funding to add 12 new units of Shelter Plus Care housing and enhance the Safe

Harbors project to improve information and referral services for homeless persons.

► Distributed Community Development Block Grant funds to help complete public infrastructure improvements in 10 low-income cities and neighborhoods, and improved 16 health and human service facilities.

► Managed one of the largest Shelter Plus Care programs in the nation, assisting 556 persons in 2001 through a federal grant program that helps pay the rent for homeless persons with disabilities who are also participating in treatment or other supportive services.

► Repaired or renovated homes for 640 low-income seniors and families living in single family or rental units.

► Provided services to a total of 4,552 local veterans and also initiated a new Homeless Women Veterans Project to provide support services including dedicated shelter beds at the Pike Street Women's Shelter.

► Enrolled through the Veterans Incarcerated Project, a total of 146 veterans in 2001 and facilitated jail diversion and referrals to stable housing, employment, and community treat-



Site plan for Greenbrier Heights, a mixed income development in Woodinville.



Graduate Brandon Stovall and his proud grandmother.

ment. The project is successful in reducing county jail bed days, resulting in an estimated \$1.4 million reduction in incarceration costs for 2001.

► Served a total of 1,425 youth in educational, vocational, and employment programs through the Work Training Program. A total of 150 young adults received their GEDs through the Out of School Consortium and another 200 in-school youth achieved competency levels that will help them be successful in school and work.

► Rising to the challenge of responding to the region's growing unemployment rate, served 1,100 adults and hosted a well attended WorkSource Job Fair to provide information and assistance for displaced workers.

► Served 721 children from 491 families in the Child Care Program and also provided 650 hours of training for providers. The program assisted the Muckleshoot Tribe in developing a child care center in Auburn and also created 124 child care slots through a state "twilight" grant for non-standard hour care.

► Assisted 9,630 victims of domestic violence or sexual assault through the Women's Program, and produced four issues of "Alert" newsletter on teen dating violence that were distributed to over 1,600 clinics, counselors, youth leaders and others.

► Premiered "Communities in Action," on King County cable television, produced by the Community Organizing Program featuring interviews and tips on ways to create healthier and safer communities. Among the guests were

King County Executive Ron Sims and former US Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders.

► Served over 54,000 youth, children and families through Youth and Family Services Network agencies, providing 200,000 hours of youth and family counseling, case management, gang intervention and drug/alcohol treatment and support groups, employment and education programs, and youth development. Provided 21,365 bednights of shelter to youth as a safe alternative to living on the streets. DCHS funding of agency infrastructure was a small but important part of making these services available countywide.

► Provided services to 28,494 older adults through Aging Program contracts. New Aging Services Funding Policies were developed as required by the King County Council's Human Services Policy Framework, and the Aging Program hosted two community meetings to gather public comment and complete this work to establish future funding priorities.



Work Training Programs combine classroom education and on the job training for at-risk youth.



Best friends Scott Dennis and Tim Finnegan.

Developmental Disabilities

What We Do: The Developmental Disabilities Division contracts with local agencies to provide services for children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. These services include: early intervention and child development services for children from birth to age three; employment assistance, including job training and placement; access and accommodation information and assistance; and family resource coordination and advocacy services. King County is proud to be a national leader of supported employment opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities. An incredibly strong community-based employment network provides livable wages and support to empower persons with disabilities to live and work in their communities.

2001 Accomplishments

► Assisted nearly 800 persons achieve and maintain individual supported employment positions. Average hourly wages were \$8.99, the highest in the nation for individuals with

significant developmental disabilities. Cumulative annual earnings for persons in King County's supported employment program: \$7.1 million.

► Assisted more than 1,100 adults who participated in group supported employment, prevocational training and community access programs.

► Provided early intervention and child development services to over 1,100 infants and toddlers and their families.

► Provided recreational opportunities to over 500 children and adults with developmental disabilities.

► Hosted the first-ever Housing Conference for Persons with Developmental Disabilities, attended by over 200 persons.

► Held the Developmental Disabilities Annual Legislative Forum, an extraordinary success attended by over 500 persons who gathered to hear from families, consumers, and legislators on funding and service issues.



Jenny Harris and Jennifer Hitch at the Summer picnic.

Mental Health Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services

What We Do: The Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division (MHCADSD) oversees and provides a wide range of mental health and substance abuse treatment services, as well as 24-hour emergency and crisis response services, and investigation for involuntary detention under chemical abuse and mental illness state statutes. Most publicly-funded treatment services are provided

to eligible persons through contracts with community mental health and/or substance abuse agencies.

Mental Health Services - Mental health treatment services include individual, group and family therapy; case management;

crisis intervention; vocational services; medication management; and assistance with housing and other supports. Crisis response services are available to all King County residents, regardless of income or insurance coverage. The Crisis Clinic provides a 24-hour telephone line for crisis assistance and referrals to care. County Designated Mental Health Professionals (CDMHP) provide 24-hour crisis outreach and investigation for possible involuntary detention and treatment.

Substance Abuse Services - Substance abuse services available to county residents include

determination of need and financial eligibility by staff at the King County Assessment Center; sobering services provided through the Emergency Services Patrol and the Dutch Shisler Sobering Support Center; detoxification; outpatient treatment, and residential services including the county-owned Cedar Hills Addiction Treatment Facility in Maple Valley; outpatient opiate substitution treatment; and employment and housing assistance. The Alcohol and Drug 24-Hour Help Line responds

to calls from persons needing crisis assistance and referrals to treatment. Chemical Dependency Specialists provide outreach and investigation for involuntary detention and alcohol and substance abuse treatment.

Cross System Coordination -

MHCADSD has been a trailblazer in coordinating resources and care for persons with multiple service needs. The Division has successfully negotiated many cross system collaborations to serve persons with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse. Through the Children and Families in Common grant, MHCADSD has significantly improved the coordination of care across the child serving systems. King County is a national leader in designing and implementing programs to serve persons with mental illness and/or substance abuse



Enjoying the sun at the Developmental Disabilities Family picnic!

involved in the juvenile or adult criminal justice systems.

Mental Health Court facilitates more effective services for the mentally ill misdemeanor offender and improves public safety by providing the needed coordination between the mental health and the criminal justice systems. Drug Court represents a collaboration between the substance abuse treatment system and the courts, working with youth and adults to divert them, where appropriate, from detention or incarceration into community treatment.

The Crisis Triage Unit (CTU) at Harborview Hospital provides a central access point for persons in crisis who need immediate treatment for mental illness, chemical dependency, or develop-

mental disability. The CTU processes approximately 640 adult admissions each month and serves as a crucial pre-booking diversion site for local law enforcement (34% of referrals), allowing persons to connect to the treatment they need rather than be incarcerated. Upon discharge, the CTU facilitates connections to community treatment.

Mentally Ill Offender treatment programs were fostered to create effective linkages between the state Department of Corrections and the King County mental health and substance abuse treatment systems. Evaluations of the

programs show greatly improved access to critical services for individuals upon release from prison, reduced recidivism rates, and improved public safety.

The Children and Families in Common grant facilitates collaboration between courts, mental health and substance abuse treatment providers, juvenile detention, and schools in order to coordinate care for the most at-risk youth - those with serious emotional disturbances whose service needs involve multiple treatment systems. The grant offers family support and training to embrace parents as partners in treatment planning and service delivery. The six year, federal grant focuses on serving youth involved, or at risk of involvement, in the juvenile justice system and has shown particu-

lar success working with the courts to divert youth from detention to community treatment. Health 'N Action, a youth-run advocacy group, had an extraordinary year involving youth in program planning and design and in speaking engagements across the state and nation to promote the youth voice.

2001 Accomplishments

► Provided mental health services to 31,946 persons in 2001: 9,645 children; 18,340 adults; and 3,961 older adults. This represents an increase of 4% over the numbers served in 2000. Outcomes data shows success in reducing the use



Cedar Hills Addiction Treatment Facility, in Maple Valley.

of inpatient services and improvement in the quickness of response to persons being discharged from inpatient stays or released from jail/detention.

- ▶ Provided substance abuse services to a total of 12,266 persons including 1,700 children and youth and 10,566 adults.

- ▶ Served a total of 400 mental health clients in

fender programs providing the critically needed mental health and substance abuse treatment services, housing, and vocational assistance to ensure a safe and successful return to their local communities.

- ▶ Served more than 90 youth and families through "Project Team," providing extensive service coordination to assist these youth to succeed in school



King County Executive Ron Sims congratulates Health 'N Action on their successful Teen Health Summit!

the King County District Mental Health Court, and a total of 508 mental health clients in the Seattle Municipal Mental Health Court.

- ▶ Saw 7,675 adults and 386 children at the Crisis Triage Unit (CTU) and facilitated linkages to community treatment for 72% of CTU admissions.

- ▶ Served 62 persons through mentally ill of-

and at home. The grant sponsored trainings on wraparound services for the child serving system, and sponsored the Capacidad Project that has shown considerable success engaging and serving Hispanic/Latino youth and families.

- ▶ Hosted the Teen Youth Summit in May that attracted more than 150 youth, parents and providers and received national recognition for

its “by youth, for youth” design. Speakers included King County Executive Ron Sims and King County Sheriff Dave Reichert.

► Completed the first year of a multi-year federal grant to enhance culturally-relevant substance abuse services for youth. The first Youth Leadership Gathering in August brought together youth of different cultures to discuss leadership development and substance abuse relapse prevention and education ideas specifically for youth.

► Joined with local mental health and substance abuse advocacy groups and the members of the King County Substance Abuse and King County Mental Health Boards to hold the 4th Annual Community Legislative Forum.



Youth advocates Rutia Curry (l) and Hula Mahe (r) greet Rep. Ed Murray (D-43), who has attended every Mental Health/Substance Abuse Community Legislative Forum.

Office of Public Defense

What We Do: The Office of Public Defense (OPD) ensures that legal services are available to low-income individuals who have been charged with a jailable offense, individuals involuntarily committed under mental health or chemical dependency statutes, and for parties to dependency proceedings. OPD staff screens individuals for eligibility and assigns legal counsel seven days and four evenings a week at over 15 locations throughout King County. OPD also administers the county’s Expert Services Program for indigent offenders including psychiatric or psychological evaluations, expert witnesses, investigation, and forensic evaluations. King County contracts with four private non-profit law firms to provide the major-

ity of the public defender legal services for eligible county residents in public defense cases including civil contempt of court or loss of liberty; juvenile offender, dependency, truancy, Youth At Risk/Children in Need of Services cases; and all criminal cases.

2001 Accomplishments

- Assigned public defenders to a total of 37,592 cases in 2001.
- Implemented a new Early Assignment process in April 2001 to speed up the process of providing an attorney for felony defendants (assigned before arraignment) in order to improve continuity (one attorney handling the case from arraignment to sentencing).
- Worked with Seattle Municipal Court to develop criteria to provide public defense services for Municipal Mental Health Court.
- Established an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Newcastle for legal services for indigent individuals. The Office of Public Defense provides services for five cities in King County.



New Start youth serve their communities by sprucing up downtown White Center.

Unincorporated Area Councils

What We Do: Unincorporated Area Councils (UACs) were created in 1995 to improve communication between county government and the residents of unincorporated areas (communities outside of city boundaries). There are six recognized UACs in King County: Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council, Greater Maple Valley Area Council, North Highline Unincorporated Area Council, Upper Bear Creek Community Council, Vashon-Maury Island Community Council, and West Hill Community Council. DCHS Community

Service Representatives serve as liaisons between the UACs and county government, working closely with the County Executive, the County Council, and county departments to provide information on a wide array of issues of interest and concern to these communities.

2001 Accomplishments

► King County Executive Ron Sims facilitated the annual Joint Community Forum for Unincorporated Area Councils in June 2001 on Vashon Island, attended by members and representatives of the six unincorporated area councils and representatives of County government.



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